

I want to thank + congratulate Don + her Committee

for arranging this Commemorative celebration to honor those who from Pa. served in WW II - 50 yrs. ago. While veterans of WW II are the focus of this day we remember + honor all vets who have answered the call + stood in defense of America.

At least twice a yr for the past 16 yrs. I have joined our mayor, Tom Chambers in a parade + ceremonies honoring our Vets and those MIA - ~~solitans~~ - Tom and I would lament at the all too few citizens who would take time to participate. Perhaps we can capture the enthusiasm of this day and with a gratitude that burns bright within us - make a commitment to remember these vets at least twice a yr. - Memorial Day + Armed Forces Day

I am humbled by the privilege to take part in To-day's event. As one who lived through WW II and whose husband served in that war. I have vivid recollections of the horrors brought to bear by Hitler + the Japanese war lords. I cannot overstate my appreciation to you who answered the call to defend freedom. ~~and~~ IT IS NOT your participation in the war that we glorify but rather what we glorify is your dedication to an ideal, to your faith in a living

Concept of freedom, to your spirit of personal sacrifice for common good. When the nation needed you - you left families + home to meet your responsibility to be preservers of peace and life-givers of democracy.

As we gather on this day - on this special occasion - Perhaps what we really need to do is Pause - and listen - listen - really listen - to the sounds of service - to sacrifices made by those who died on the battle field or at sea or in the air.

Let us listen - really listen - to the voices of you who served - to your stories of bravery - to your stories of suffering to your <sup>determination</sup> ~~commitment~~ to the legacy of freedom that your service birthed.

Indeed you have challenged us to-day.

By listening and making personal commitment we can best embrace the gift given by you - the men + women - who fought the fight and won the war - World War II.